

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for detecting tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cells, comprising:

- a) obtaining a sample suspected of containing tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cells;
- b) contacting said sample with an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of tyrosine protein kinase receptor (TIE-2), endothelin-1 receptor (EDNRA), transforming growth factor β 3 (TGF β 3), transforming growth factor receptor β III (TGFR β III), vascular permeability factor receptor (VEGFR1), vascular endothelin growth factor (VEGF) and basic fibroblast growth factor receptor (bFGFR), under conditions effective to bind said antibody and form a complex;
- c) measuring an ~~the~~ amount of at least one of the above polypeptides ~~said polypeptide~~ present in said sample by quantitating the amount of said complex; and
- d) comparing the amount of polypeptide present in said sample with the amount of polypeptide in estrogen-stimulated, tamoxifen-sensitive and tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cells, wherein an increase in the amount of TIE-2,

EDNRA, TGF β 3, TGFR β III, VEGF or VEGFR1 polypeptide or a decrease in the amount of bFGFR polypeptide in said sample compared with the amount in estrogen-stimulated or tamoxifen-sensitive breast cancer cells indicates the presence of tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cells.

2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a) measuring the amounts of two or more polypeptides selected from the group consisting of TIE-2, EDNRA, TGF β 3, TGFR β III, VEGFR1, VEGF and bFGFR; and
 - b) for each polypeptide, comparing the amount of said polypeptide present in said sample with the amount of the same polypeptide present in estrogen-stimulated, tamoxifen-sensitive and tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cells.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a diagnosis of tamoxifen-sensitive or tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a prediction of the existence or development of tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer.
5. (withdrawn) A method of determining survival for an individual with breast cancer, comprising determining the levels of TIE-2, EDNRA, TGF β 3, TGFR β III, VEGFR1, VEGF or bFGFR polypeptide in a breast cancer tissue sample from said individual, wherein the presence of elevated levels of TIE-2, EDNRA, TGF β 3, TGFR β III, VEGF or VEGFR1 polypeptide or

decreased levels of bFGFR polypeptide in said tissue sample relative to estrogen-stimulated or tamoxifen sensitive breast cancer samples is associated with a decreased survival of the individual.

6-21. (canceled)

22. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is a TIE-2 polypeptide with a molecular weight of about 220 kDa.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cells are MCF-7 cells.

24. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a diagnosis of tamoxifen-sensitive or tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer.

25. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a prediction of the existence or development of tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer.